

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 T-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO CINCUSAREUR

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SECDEF WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: COMENTS OF DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER CONCERNING
MILITARY TRAINING AREAS

1. FRG NEWS MEDIA AND THE MARCH 20 EDITION OF " STARS AND STRIPES" HAVE REPORTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER DURING HIS MARCH 19 VISIT TO SEVENTH ARMY, PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF AN FRG- US GROUP TO STUDY THE POSSIBLE SHARING OF MILITARY AREAS BETWEEN US AND BUNDESWEHR UNITS. LEBER REPORTEDLY DID NOT PROPOSE THE USE OF ANY SPECIFIC AREAS BUT BECAUSE OF RECENT CIVILIAN DISSATISFACTION WITH CERTAIN TRAINING GROUNDS, HE THOUGHT A JOINT STUDY MIGHT PRODUCE BENEFICIAL RESULTS. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT CIVILIAN DISSATISFACTION WAS NOT LIMITED TO AREAS USED BY US TROOPS, BUT WAS DIRECTED ALSO TO AREAS RESERVED FOR GERMAN TROOPS.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT LEBER'S PROPOSAL HAS REAL MERIT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAJOR TRAINING AREAS ARE IN GENERAL JOINTLY USED BY US FORCES AND BUNDESWEHR TROOPS, AND WE THINK IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE JOINT USE CONCEPT TO SMALLER TRAINING AREAS, PERHAPS TO ALL PLACES WHERE THE LOCATION OF US AND FRG TROOP

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UNITS WOULD PERMIT IT. ANY STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION
WOULD TEND TO INCREASE FRG RESPONSIBILITY IN THE
TRAINING AREAS PROBLEM AND REDUCE OUR OWN VISIBILITY.
SOME OF OUR UNITS MAY WELL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE

ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN TRAINING AREA PROBLEMS WHICH CANNOT READILY
BE RESOLVED; WE BELIEVE THAT LEBER' S SUGGESTION
IS ONE WE CAN USE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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